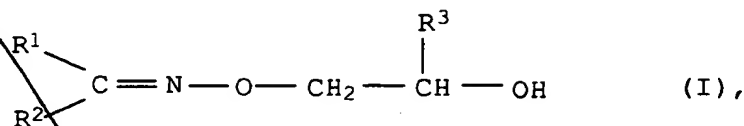


We claim:

1. A process for the preparation of O-(2-hydroxyalkyl) oximes of
the general formula



in which R¹ and R² each stand for an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms or form, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, a 5-membered to 7-membered cycloalkyl radical, and R³ denotes an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, wherein a ketoxime of the general formula II



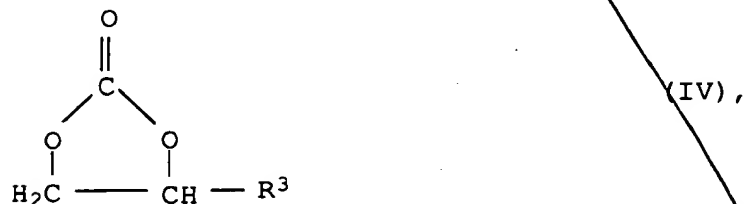
is caused to react with

- a) an olefin oxide of the general formula III



in the presence of a tertiary amine or

- b) a carbonate of the general formula IV



in the presence of a catalyst.

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2. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the ketoxime II used is acetone oxime, butanone oxime, or cyclohexanone oxime.
3. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the ketoxime II used is acetone oxime.
4. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the starting material is a compound III or IV in which R³ denotes methyl.
5. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein triethylamine is used as tertiary amine in process variant (a).
6. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein N,N-dimethylcyclohexylamine is used as tertiary amine in process variant (a).
7. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein potassium hydrogen carbonate is used as catalyst in process variant (b).
8. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein potassium hydrogen carbonate is used as catalyst in process variant (b).
9. A process as defined in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein a tertiary amine is used as catalyst in process variant (b).
10. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein II is reacted with IV without a solvent.

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